

ART. XXII.—*Preliminary Notice of two new Species of
Marsupials from Central Australia.*

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The following is a brief description of two new forms of Marsupials obtained in Central Australia during the visit of the Horn Scientific Expedition to the Macdonnell Ranges. The full descriptions, together with illustrations, are reserved for the volume in which it is intended to publish the complete results of the expedition.

(1) *Phascologale macdonnellensis*.

Size medium. Fur somewhat coarse. General colour of back dull greyish-brown with a well-marked chestnut patch behind each ear. Ventral surface grey. The eye is, more or less, surrounded by a light coloured ring, and a light line runs along the upper and under jaws bordering the mouth.

Ears rounded, clothed inside and out with short hairs, reaching when laid forward to about the centre of the eye.

Hands and feet grey. Palms with six striated pads, the proximal half of the pollical pad curved, and with the concavity facing towards the pollex; the proximal outer pad V-shaped, with the apex pointing towards the fingers, the inner leg of the V being slightly longer than the outer.

Soles naked, except under the heel where they are hairy: granulated; hallucal pad divided into two; hallux reaching slightly further than the proximal end of the anterior pads. Pads, six in all, and striated.

Tail shorter than the head and body combined, and notably stout in its proximal half, tapering rapidly about the middle of its length, and from this gradually to the tip. Incrassated. Covered with fairly long stiff hairs. In colour somewhat lighter

than the body, the ventral being slightly lighter than the dorsal surface.

Pouch slightly developed and formed by two lateral folds of skin. Within the pouch area the hairs are comparatively scanty and white in colour; external to the pouch area the hairs are dark coloured for their basal two-thirds the pouch area being thus clearly marked out, and the folds being doubtless more prominent when young are present. Mammæ six (three on each side).

Dentition *i.* $\frac{1.2.3.4}{1.2.3.}$ *c.* $\frac{1}{1}$ *p.* $\frac{1.0.3.4}{1.0.3.4}$ *m.* $\frac{1.2.3.4}{1.2.3.4}$

DIMENSIONS OF FEMALE (in al.).

Head and body	...	..	92 mm.
Tail	...	...	77 „
Hind foot	...	...	14 „
Ear	...	...	13 „

Habitat.—Central Australia (Alice Springs). Terrestrial, living in holes amongst rocks and under stones.

The first specimen was found by Mounted Trooper South, of Alice Springs, and by him presented to Dr. Stirling, for whom it had been intended, who kindly handed it on for description to me as officer in charge of the zoological department of the expedition.

(2) *Sminthopsis psammophilus*, sp. n.

Size medium. Fur close, long, and fine. Dorsal surface dark grey. Ventral surface of head and body white. Brownish tinge on the thighs. Tail with short, stiff whitish hairs dorsally, and black hairs beneath increasing in length dorsally and ventrally at the tip, so as to form a slight crest.

Ears large, reaching half-way between the eye and the pit of the snout; covered back and front with short stiff grey hairs. Palms granulated with six unstriated, and not clearly outlined, pads.

Soles hairy; the hairs covering the surface to the base of the pads, with the exception of a narrow granulated central space, reaching back from the pads to the hallux. Pads, three in

number, without striations and granulated. Hallux small, about half-way between the heel and the tips of the toes.

Mammæ? (only a single male specimen obtained).

Dentition *i.* $\frac{1.2.3.4}{1.2.3.}$ *c.* $\frac{1}{1}$ *p.* $\frac{1.0.3.4}{1.0.3.4}$ *m.* $\frac{1.2.3.4}{1.2.3.4}$

DIMENSIONS OF MALE (in al.).

Head and body	...	...	105 mm.
Tail	...	...	116 ..
	(Very tip broken off).		
Hind foot	...	...	25 ..
Ear	...	...	24.5 ..

Habitat.—Central Australia, near Lake Amadeus. Terrestrial.

Our attention was drawn to the first specimen seen, by Mounted Trooper Cowle as we were riding over sand-hills covered with tussocks of poreupine grass (*Triodia irritans*). It ran about from tussock to tussock. A second specimen was seen in the same district but not captured, and Mr Cowle has since informed me that he has seen the same animal near Illamurta in the James Range.